

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to recognize the importance of spaying and neutering pets.

WHEREAS, of the more than 30 million puppies and kittens born in the U.S. each year, only one in 10 finds a permanent home, according to the American Humane Association; and

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled breeding of cats and dogs in this state has led to unacceptable numbers of unwanted dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout Tennessee and across the nation spend millions of dollars to control the population of unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, irresponsible breeding contributes to the problem of dog bites and attacks; and

WHEREAS, stray pets and homeless animals get into trash containers, defecate in public areas or on private lawns, and frighten or anger people who have no understanding of their misery or needs; and

WHEREAS, the animals themselves suffer privation and death, are impounded, and, sadly, most are destroyed at great expense to local governments; and

WHEREAS, this deplorable state of affairs could be virtually eliminated in our state if only every Tennessean spayed or neutered their pets; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering pets can help them lead longer, healthier lives by reducing the incidence of a number of difficult or expensive to treat health problems such as cancers affecting the reproductive organs; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering have many positive benefits to the pet owner as well; spaying and neutering make pets more affectionate companions, make cats less likely to spray and mark territory, eliminates the heat cycle in dogs and cats, and make animals less likely to bite, roam, run away, or get into fights; and

WHEREAS, every cat or dog who dies as a result of pet overpopulation, whether humanely in a shelter or by injury, disease, or neglect, is an animal who, more often than not, would have made a wonderful companion if given the chance. Tremendous as the problem of pet overpopulation is, it can be solved if each of us takes just one small step, starting with not allowing our animals to breed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that in recognizing the importance of spaying and neutering pets, we strongly encourage all Tennesseans to be responsible pet owners and spay and neuter their pets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.